

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 2-17 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 1 has been canceled by this amendment.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 2-4, 8-10, 14 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant hereby rewrites claims 2, 8, 10 and 14 in independent form including all of the limitations of independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 2, 8, 10 and 14 and all claims which depend therefrom are in immediate condition for allowance.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 5-7, 11-13, 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lueker et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,504,809).

As discussed above, Applicant has rewritten claims 2, 8, 10 and 14 in independent form and, therefore, these claims should now be allowed. Claim 1 has been canceled by this Amendment. Dependent claims 5-7, 11-13, 16 and 17 have been amended so as to depend from independent claim 2. Accordingly, Applicant submits that these claims should be allowed at least by virtue of their dependency.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. APPLICATION NO.: 09/883,220

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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